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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
NATIONAL FOREIGN ASSESSMENT CENTER15 December 1981  
Information as of 1200SITUATION REPORT: POLAND

UPI's Moscow correspondent reports that an unnamed Soviet official with access to Kremlin policy decisions asserted that Moscow is prepared to send military assistance to Poland to restore order. He said no such request had yet been made but the key question was whether workers would return to their jobs in key industries. [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] admitted that a Soviet military intervention, though a possibility, would be opposed by the Polish population. Moscow clearly hopes to avoid such a step unless events get out of hand. [REDACTED] 25X1

TASS today also raised the issue of US interference in Polish internal affairs, charging that Secretary Haig sought "to impose imperialist terms" for resolving Poland's problems by applying economic pressure. TASS also accused Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty of instigating resistance to martial law. The strident tone of the communique contrasts sharply with the more moderate line of Soviet officials speaking privately. [REDACTED] 25X1

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that fighting broke out this afternoon at the major steel complex. [REDACTED] have observed ambulances and emergency vehicles on the way to the steel mill. [REDACTED] 25X1

If confirmed this would be the first incident of violence since the dispersal Sunday of the crowd in front of Solidarity's Warsaw headquarters and could become the catalyst for wider, violent confrontations. At the very least, bloodshed will seriously hinder the regime's effort to reconcile the populace to martial law by presenting military rule as benign. If the confrontation resulted from the attempt of troops to dislodge workers from the factories, the results are likely to be duplicated elsewhere and the reliability of the army will be seriously tested. [REDACTED] 25X1

The Polish Foreign Ministry has officially "requested" that US Embassy personnel remain in Warsaw and restrict their activities. Consulate officers will be allowed to travel only with prior notification to the authorities. These moves point to the possibility that the regime is having difficulty maintaining order and wants to limit accurate reporting of its difficulties. [REDACTED] 25X1

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